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FLOOR DEBATE

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amendment, would incorporate LB 283 as amended, which increases the tax on alcoholic beverages. Now, I have a number of times urged Senator Landis to offer this amendment to the bill. And he said, no, no, you go ahead. This is...I do want you to know, this is Senator Landis' bill originally. This is Senator Landis' work. I did not originally have it in the green copy of the bill. We're offering it now in order to make it a more complete package. The increases are as agreed to by the Revenue Committee in the committee amendment to that bill, to LB 283. These particular taxes have not been raised since 1991. If you would like to deal with some of the specificity of the increases, I'd urge you to refer to the committee statement on LB 283, which I think has a very helpful presentation. Under the amendment, beer is increased from 23 cents to 29 cents per gallon. Wine is increased from 75 cents to 95 cents per gallon. Fortified wine is decreased from \$1.35 to 95 cents per gallon. Farm wine is increased from five cents to six cents per gallon. And spirits are increased from \$3.00 to \$3.75 per gallon. This was a heavily discussed and consulted situation, as I am informed. And these increases are not opposed by the beverage industry. And I would urge the adoption of this amendment. And I thank Senator Landis for his work. Thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Brashear. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, listening to Senator Brashear disavow all responsibility for this amendment makes me understand what Shakespeare (sic) meant when he wrote, thou damnest me with faint praise. But at any rate, this is an amendment that I'm going to support. However, I've been counting...watching the votes on this bill. It doesn't have 25 solid votes for the whole bill. I know it doesn't have 33. So I'm saying again, the train wreck is going to happen on Select File. And the congeniality that has existed on General File is going to evaporate. And I'm going to have a great role to play in that. But I will tell you all this. I am open 24 hours a day in my office, when I'm here, for negotiations, groveling, and whatnot. When you leave my office, you can say, I came, I groveled, I conquered. I just thought I'd throw that out. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.